

## THE COMMANDING OFFICER

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Hello from sunny Iraq. I want to share with the families back in the United States that your beloved Marines and Sailors are doing a fine job. I wish I could tell you of all the courageous things they have done to this point, but I can not in this newsletter. The team we now have in place, both active and reserve, Marine and Sailor, man and woman, is working well together and accomplishing very hard tasks in fine fashion. The men and women under my charge are all heroes in my mind. Now, it is my duty to bring them all home safely. I am working with my staff to ensure we have a good plan to get our Marines and Sailors home in the most efficient and safe manner possible. But before we do this, I am reminding all under my command that we must remain focused on the mission. I don't want my Task Force to start "smelling the barn" and likewise become unfocused on the tasks that lay before us. Therefore, I am telling each one of my men and women that they should not fixate on returning home. I want them to think about each mission, each mile we drive in combat, and each footstep we take so that we finish each day here safely. I need your help to keep our loved ones focused during this last month we have in country. You can help me by encouraging your Marines and Sailors to stay focused and motivated and by you maintaining a



**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines (-) (rein),  
4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division**

**September 2006**

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positive attitude when you speak or write to them. I commit to all of you back in the States that I am spending time in the field with every one of my men and women, ensuring they are as fully prepared as possible to carry out each mission safely. I also am committed in ensuring they have enough protective equipment and armor to fully protect them.

It is very important to me that each one of you, whether you are spouse, parent or friend of our Corps, that you understand the benefits that our Marines and Sailors will rate after this deployment. I want you to particularly know about the Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) and Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) benefits that our SMCR members will rate once they complete their deployment. Please don't hesitate to ask your Family Readiness Officer (FRO) or KVA for more information regarding these programs.

I look forward to meeting as many spouses and family members once I return to the United States. You all have been wonderful in supporting your loved ones from afar. I look forward to the day when I can join you together with your hero.

LtCol W. C. Harrison

## **FAMILY READINESS OFFICER**

### **Battalion Family Readiness Comments:**

Marine/Sailor families and friends,

Hello again to all the motivated families of the Marines/ Sailors of Task Force MP. The light at the end of the tunnel is nearer, but the focus and mindset of your Marines/ Sailors remain vigilant while they complete final mission requirements in Iraq. Their conviction to duty and country remain strong, and the support from family/ friends has cast a positive atmosphere for the Marines/ Sailors in country.

Continue to send e-mails, and MotoMail to your Marines/ Sailors. Due to the efforts of the family/ friends of this battalion you are the hero's of maintaining the moral, enthusiasm, and motivation of your loved one in Iraq. Remember that each reserve center has the capability to provide resources to a family in need. The Family Readiness Officer (FRO), and the Key Volunteer Coordinator (KVC), is always ready to answer questions, and provide information in regards to family support.

Remember; Operational Security, please be careful on what information is sent, and received by your Marines/ Sailors. Have an Outstanding Marine Corps Day.

Semper Fi,

Sergeant Major John K. Bell  
2144 Clement Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501

### **Family Readiness Officers**

#### **Battalion Family Readiness Officer**

SgtMaj Bell 510-814-1608

#### **Alpha Battery**

1stSgt Eggerling 720-847-7859

#### **Bravo Battery**

1stSgt Campbell 815-725-7828

#### **Charlie Co MP**

1stSgt Gomez 937-369-7073

#### **Hotel Battery**

GySgt Raso 804-275-7805

## **Key Volunteer's**

### **Battalion Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Greetings families!

Well, our long year is almost over... we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm sure each and every one of you is as excited as I for your Marine or Sailor to return home. If you're anything like me, you're in the final push to finish all the projects you wanted to accomplish while they were away.

I know this has been a long year for everyone, and I'm very proud to have been able to support and assist everyone during this time, and to be a sounding board for those that just needed to vent. We pulled together as a unit to support each other, and in turn support our service members. I know that having such a cohesive Key Volunteer Network back home helped them keep their minds on the task at hand. That's what the Key Volunteers are all about.

I hope that those who became Key Volunteers because of deployment will consider remaining on after the battalion's return. Keeping a successful program running during peacetime will ensure a successful program should the battalion ever deploy again. Even though the type of assistance needed might change, remember, there's always a need out there.

Thank you to all the Volunteers and the Volunteer Coordinators who made this deployment just a little bit easier for the families of 1/14, and made my job easier as well. Your Marine or Sailor will be very proud of the work you did, and you should be proud of yourselves as well.

Next up.... a most welcome return home, and then on to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Semper Fi!

Dawn Kemp

## **THE KVN TEAM**

### **Battalion Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Dawn Kemp 707-933-9422

### **HQ's Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Dawn Kemp 707-933-9422

### **Alpha Battery Key Volunteer Coordinators**

Mrs. Stacy Roberds 719-495-1601

Mr. Bob Weesner 970-669-4482

### **Bravo Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mr. Peter Fichtner 269-445-1600

### **Charlie Co. MP Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Joy Becker 937-416-1487

### **Hotel Battery Key Volunteer Coordinators**

Mrs. Prudence Milligan 804-262-7445

### **Tango Battery Key Volunteer Coordinator**

Mrs. Stephanie Dellacosta  
DellaCostaSL.ctr@pendleton.usmc.mil

### **Key Volunteer Network Mission Statement**

*The Key Volunteer Network is a part of the Commander's official Family Readiness Program. The role of the KVN is to support and assist the Commander by providing improved communications between the command and the families, by developing a support network among families within the unit, and by establishing a focal point for information and referral to appropriate helping agencies. It is the primary communication link between the commanding officer and the unit's families for mission readiness. Key Volunteers all attend a training session to learn about the resources available to Marine families.*

## DEERS

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is a centralized automated system that captures, edits and maintains sponsor and family member data upon which eligibility for military health care (Tricare), Dental Care, and other benefits are determined. Marines and their immediate dependents are eligible. Enrollment in the SGLI program is now done automatically through DEERS.

Visit the [DEERS Web site](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard.login?aapl=9012&rule=02)- this is the quick and easy way to update your information. The best time to update is during non-peak hours!  
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard.login?aapl=9012&rule=02>

## L.I.N.K.S

L.I.N.K.S is now available online. To learn more about it go to:

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/LINKS/online.cfm>

To access L.I.N.K.S. Online go to:

<http://www.marinenet.usmc.mil/>

Log in using your social security number and date of birth. Go to the Course Catalog and click on Marine Corps Training Courses. Click on L.I.N.K.S. and then enroll in the course. Once enrolled you will need to go to "My Account" and replace your Marine's name with yours as the user. Finally, launch the course. Now your journey begins!

## Emergencies

When our Marines get activated, it is of major concern that we are able to communicate with them if an emergency arises.

In case of an emergency (death or hospitalization of an immediate family member) contact the local Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>).

You will need to have your Marine's:

Social Security Number

Name

Unit's Name

Location of the Unit

Nature of emergency or message

The Red Cross will get the message to the Marine as soon as possible.

Email: [info@arcriohondo.org](mailto:info@arcriohondo.org)

Website: <http://www.arcriohondo.org>

## With a Military ID card you are eligible to shop at the...

### Exchange

The Exchange is similar to a department store. Savings are plentiful and you pay no taxes!!!

### Commissary

The commissary is a non-profit grocery store. All items are sold at cost plus a 5% surcharge (used to pay operating cost, the baggers work for tips so don't forget them).

### COMMISSARIES

<http://www.commissaries.com/>



### Military One Source

Military One Source is a referral service to help Marine families find information and services for any part of the United States. Translators are available.

[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)

User ID: Marines

Password: Semper Fi

or

(800) 869-0278



## **Battalion Sergeant Major 1 of 2**

Family and friends of our Marines I would like to take this opportunity to mention what a great job our Marines are doing over here. LtCol Harrison and myself have made it our top priority to try to visit each and everyone of them, even though we have yet to complete that task we have meet over 95% of them. Being that this Battalion is spread out over three different areas of operations and at times it can be very challenging to lock on transportation to get to all the different locations are Marines are assigned. Of those I have meet, I will say you will not find a more professional or dedicated group of Marines anywhere in our Corps. They continue to stay focus on completing their mission along with taking care of each other. And to be honest they are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a long and at times a very hot seven months.

As fore myself I am proud and honored to be their SgtMaj, and I assure you that I will do my best to take care of each and everyone of them. I will consider this a successful tour once we have return home and all our Marines have been reunited with their families.

God Bless our Marines  
Semper Fi  
SgtMaj David Miller

## **Alpha Battery 1 of 2**

Spouses, Family, and Loved ones,

Another month down and that much closer to coming home! Detailed planning is underway for our return, and the dates are pretty much firm, but please contact the KVN network for the correct dates. Reacting to rumors only impedes the process.

Promotions for the month were to SSgt: Garcia, P.U. (2nd, PTT) and to LCpl: Pimental, E. NMI (1<sup>st</sup>) and Hoffman, P.I.(3<sup>rd</sup>).

Meritorious Sergeant went to Denham of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals awarded were: LCpl Gregg, E.G. (1<sup>st</sup>), LCpls Ross, M.T. and Stewart, A.T. (2<sup>nd</sup>), Sgt Coy, H.M. (3<sup>rd</sup>), LCpls Robinson, R.G. and Sanford, K.C. (4<sup>th</sup>).

Certificates of Commendation awarded were: Sgts Jimenez, L. and Lee, K.R., Cpls Kellogg, J.P. and Sullivan, A.J., and LCpl Jenkins, N.A. and Zamarron, S.NMI. (2<sup>nd</sup>), and HM3 House, S.W. (4<sup>th</sup>)

Meritorious Masts awarded were: LCpls Blazier, G.J., Morrison, N.M., and Spiedell, N.C. (2<sup>nd</sup>), Cpl McGrath, C.E. and HN Haymon, S.D. (4<sup>th</sup>).

Marine of the Quarter for 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment is LCpl Vainisi, M.A. (3rd).

Congratulations to all the Marines and Sailors for their hard work and dedication.

## **Alpha Battery 2 of 2**

You, as always, can be proud of them as well as the rest of the Battery. More awards are definitely in the "hopper", it just takes some time to get through the paperwork. 1stSgt Walters and I spend part of every day writing and re-writing these awards. So expect many more awards as is warranted for the fine performances the Marines and Sailors are doing.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you again for the support you have given us. It is easily recognized in the morale displayed here by all. I ask that you continue to be supportive up to the final moment, as we try now to combat complacency. We can all see the end is near, and losing focus now in these last crucial days can ruin the successes earned by your loved ones. Positive and continued regular correspondence from home is a must, and more important now more than ever.

We will see you all soon, and look forward to a most enjoyable re-union. The Marine Corps Ball is scheduled for Friday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> in Aurora, and Friday Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. 1stSgt Walters and I will be attending both, and we look forward to speaking with each of you.

Semper Fidelis,  
Major Gary Deliberto  
Commanding Officer  
Battery A

**Bravo Battery**  
**1 of 2**

Dear Friends and Families,

The Marines from Bravo Battery have been fairly busy this month. First Platoon and Headquarters have received and reacted to additional mission taskings, and Second and Third platoons have been supporting prisoner and detainee releases that have received national news attention this past month. The increased operational tempo is making the time begin to feel like it is passing more quickly. Planning for retrograde is also progressing and details of the move are being ironed out. I've already sent out a separate letter regarding the retrograde so I won't elaborate on this topic.

**Al Asad**

The battery would like to extend congratulations to the following Marines for promotions and awards for the past month: Corporal Torres received a combat meritorious promotion, and Lance Corporal Sanchezcuellar also was promoted. Major General Zilmer awarded Sergeant Delatorre received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Corporal Williams received a Certificate of Commendation. Lance Corporal Vainisi was selected the Regimental Marine of the Quarter for 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment.

**Bravo Battery**  
**2 of 2**  
**Al Qa'im**

Last month I wrote about pre-reunion fears and tension, this month I'd like to discuss the reunion. The reunion itself has the potential to be a very emotional yet jubilant occasion. For the Marines it marks the end of a long journey. I can still recall the moment being exhilarating while at the same time feeling a wave of relief. Even though I'd returned to the United States, it wasn't until I saw and held my wife that I truly felt that my deployment was over. Reunion is followed by a short honeymoon period where the Marines and their families ride a short wave of euphoria after being reunited. Most everyone attempts to be cordial and even kids tend to be on their best behavior and is usually a happy albeit brief time for family and friends. However, reunion may not be as joyful for all Marines. Marines with small children are sometimes taken aback that their sons or daughters are tentative and even scared at their presence. This isn't uncommon as in some instances young children either don't remember the Marine or are shy around them. Showing video clips, pictures, and telephone calls can help remind children of the Marine, but understanding the root of the situation will help lessen the impact of the moment. The worst scenario is the Marine who returns from deployment to be confronted or reminded of the loss of a close family member or friend obviously missing at the reunion. It is up to all of us to ensure these Marines still feel a welcome return.

Major Matthew Fichtner

**Charlie MP Co**

For the month of August, here is an up-date on what Marines of Charlie MP Company have been accomplishing. The Marines have been stepping up there performance in support of the Marine Expeditionary Force recently. Every Marine has been performing admirably in arduous conditions.

The company is currently stationed Al Asad Air Base, in the Al Anbar Province, Waleed on the Syrian border, and Trebil on the Jordanian border. The Marines (First and Second Platoon along with Headquarters) at Trebil and Waleed are providing Port of Entry security and ensuring that nothing illegal enters the Iraq, while supervising the Iraqi customs police. Third Platoon (Pittsburg) is still conducting Convoy Security Team missions throughout Al Anbar Province.

The Chain of Command all the way through Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General has noted the outstanding job that your Marines are doing in our new higher profile missions. This reflects great credit upon their abilities, motivation, and dedication to accomplishing the task at hand.

Finally, the company is still scheduled to come home sometime in October. The actual dates will not be known til about three days before flying home from California. The Company must process through California on the way back for the Marines to take care of all their administrative and medical requirements. Moreover, it is safe to expect your Marine home in the second half of the month. We will be in touch with the I & I staff and key volunteer as we approach this time and get more information. Please remember that the Marines are under operational security requirements and can not discuss specific details over unsecured means of communication.

## **Hotel Battery 1 of 3**

Greeting Family and Friends of Hotel Battery!

Another month has passed and that means another month closer to home but more importantly, another Battery newsletter! While I am eagerly anticipating coming home in October, I am sad that I will have only two more newsletters to write. I hope you appreciate my sarcasm!

While I am certain all the Marines and sailors are also eagerly anticipating our return home, we still have an important mission to accomplish over the next months. This is a critical time for the Marines and sailors to sharpen their focus, hone their skills borne from experience and maintain constant situational awareness. A potential pitfall in learning your job so well is complacency, or assuming you have done everything to prepare and thinking that your reputation alone will see you safely through a mission. To avoid this pitfall, individual Marines and sailors, Non Commissioned Officers, Staff Non Commissioned Officers and officers must all do what they do best – be disciplined, motivated Marines and sailors. The Marines and sailors of Hotel have done this since we arrived in country and continue to do so every day, despite fatigue, hot weather, boring food and long hours on the road.

I have said this often in past newsletters but I am truly proud and honored to serve with your Marines and sailors. This has been the most frustrating, tiring and stressful job I have had in the Marine Corps and yet I would do it all over again in a heart beat. I think only a Marine, and sailors who have served with Marines - and families too! - can truly appreciate the feelings of accomplishment and pride that come with miserable working conditions, long, hot days and a seemingly endless string of frustrations and unbelievable events. I know for a fact that as badly as these Marines and sailors want to come home, they will miss Iraq and the long, hot days and the boring food and the craziest

## **Hotel Battery 2 of 3**

things they thought they would never see in life. Even more, they will miss each other, just as they now miss you.

Since the last newsletter, our missions have continued in the same locations across Iraq and some new ones. Several missions went to a coalition base near Tikrit. Others went to the Syrian and Jordanian borders. Most missions take the Marines and sailors to bases and locations they know well. We also conducted some new sustainment training, to keep our combat skills sharp and ready. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit aboard Camp Fallujah trained us to better recognize and defeat IEDs by first teaching a class then walking us through a practical application course, during the day and at night. The other training was the Enhanced Marksmanship Program, which sharpens combat shooting skills with the M16A4 service rifle and M4 carbine. We have also received some new armored HMMWV's and other equipment that will help keep us safer and make our missions go more smoothly.

All work and no play make Marines and sailors crabby so we started to inject some recreation into our days. Probably the biggest attraction on base is the swimming pool that recently opened. All the platoons have reserved some time there and taken a few hours to relax and have some cool fun. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Webb and some Marines built a volleyball court in our compound and the platoons have had cookouts and volleyball games. Another way that we give the Marines and sailors a break from the day to day schedule is Rest & Relaxation (R&R), 96 hours spent in Qatar at a US base where they can swim, relax, sleep and generally forget the stress and challenges of life in Iraq. So far, we have sent approximately 15 Marines and sailors on R&R. August will be the last month we participate in the R&R program. Two of our own, Lance Corporal's Cox and Kirk, played on the Fallujah United soccer team, which defeated the feared Uqandan soccer team for

## **Hotel Battery 3 of 3**

the first time in Camp Fallujah history.

The following Marines were promoted to their current rank on 1 July:

Corporal Marc Aguilar  
Sergeant Eric Goodman  
Sergeant Vinh Phan  
Gunnery Sergeant David Stuart  
Major James Browning

The following Marines were promoted to their current rank on 1 August:

Lance Corporal Jason Radcliffe  
Corporal Jefferey Emley – combat meritorious  
Staff Sergeant Jefferson Baker

On July 6, 2006, Sergeants Ryan Curry, Matthew Hill and Adam Leslie and Corporal Joshua Frost were awarded Certificates of Commendation by Major Warnke for their efforts in locating Improvised Explosive Devices and preventing possible injuries and damage to the vehicles in their convoys.

On July 7, 2006 Corporal Crabtree was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal by LtCol Harrison, Commanding Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines, for meritorious achievement as acting battery Motor Transport chief, squad leader and Vehicle Commander.



**CPL CRABTREE NAM**

## **Headquarters Battery 1 of 2**

Here it is, the final newsletter from Iraq. Realistically, by the time you get this, we've got less than two weeks for most of HQ Battery before we touch down on American soil. In fact, some of us have already made it back with Police Transition Teams (PTT) or on the Advance Party. We're simply finishing up the last few weeks, getting our replacements as trained and ready as we can, and trying to maintain our professionalism even though we know we're so close to home. It's this time that is dangerous, as it's easy to think about home before we get there instead of maintaining our focus up to the very end. That's our final challenge in Iraq.

Once we step onto American soil, most of us will head to our Initial Location (ILOC) where we will go through medical and administrative classes and screenings, turn-in weapons, and get some classes preparing us to adjust to normal, civilian, lifestyles once again. You've changed, we've changed, and understanding and adjusting to all these changes is our first challenge as we return. Some have quit smoking (great!) while some have started to release the stress (not as good, but it happens!). Most of us are physically in much better shape than we left, but mentally we're probably a bit tired and worn-out. All of these changes will affect the loved ones that were praying and cheering and rooting for us; so knowing and expecting the adaptation period is important and realistic.

## **Headquarters Battery 2 of 2**

Finally, once we're back in Alameda at the HTC, there will be some more classes and training and stabilizing necessary. When we return we can expect a long weekend off to start, then we'll go back to the HTC on a daily basis (Monday to Friday) and take care of the final administration. The days will be relatively relaxed in their nature, but not completely carefree. By October 31<sup>st</sup> most Marines will be able to check-out on their final leave period. At this point, our activation period is almost over (most will be on leave until 30 November) and then we'll have to start thinking about future obligations to the USMC Reserves. Some might drop into the IRR if given the option. Some have already said they had so much fun that they're going to augment into active duty, leaving the Reserves to go Active Component and be full-time Marines. Others will look into other Reserve units in the Bay Area, or maybe something closer to home. Many options exist, and we're ready to help the Marines transition smoothly back into their civilian lives with minimal impact. Let us know what we can do to help this process.

Let me end with this: We could not have done this deployment without you and we will forever be grateful for your support and love. We've all made sacrifices over the past year of our lives...and I believe we're better people for having done it. We welcome you as you welcome us back; enjoy the days ahead and your times together, knowing what we all know and understand.... that freedom isn't free...it truly has a price and collectively, we've all paid for it!

## **Battalion Chaplain**

As you have read through the comments from the Commanding Officer, Sergeant Major, and the Battery Commanders it is clear that we have our eyes directed toward the end of our deployment and the joyful return to home and family. Your eyes, I would guess, are pointed in the same direction. At this point in time we are looking at the same thing from very different perspectives and it is still well off in the distance.

It is my habit to walk back to my room in the evenings. I like the quiet, the stars and the relaxing time before I settle in for the night. A couple of nights ago there was little moonlight so it was hard to see much of anything. I was focused on the vehicles to my right and the sign that was up ahead. Running into either would be painful and embarrassing. As I made sure to steer clear of the sign, I tripped and nearly fell over a rock.

The next few weeks will be exciting and challenging for all of us. Plans for reunion with loved ones will be taking place on both sides of the ocean. Expectations will be high and everyone will be more than ready for "that day". Yet the mission continues. Your Marines and Sailors will be in the fight until they leave and you will be doing the same at home. Convoys will still be escorted, detainees will be processed, check points will be manned, kids will be sent off to school, jobs will be done and meals will be cooked.

By all means look forward to the time when all is back where it should be and your loved one is home, but don't overlook the obstacles that may leave you a bit more bruised than you need to be. We'll be doing everything possible to keep safe and successful over here. We have a well constructed plan for moving back home and the time will go by quickly.

The key to any success is finishing well. Push on a little longer and soon the point to which we are moving will become increasingly clear. And then your eyes and those of your Marine will finally meet again. Then we will celebrate the completion of this great adventure, rejoice in our successes, learn from our mistakes and move on into the future stronger from the experience.

Blessings to all of you,  
Chaplain Reed

R&R VOLLEYBALL TOURNY



R&R VOLLEYBALL TOURNY



BROWNING PROMOTION



ON THE ROAD



ON THE RANGE



ON THE RANGE X2



AWARDS CEREMONY



AWARDS CEREMONY X2



AWARDS CEREMONY X3

